

State Planning Project for the Uninsured
Data Synthesis Workgroup Activities
October 19, 2005 Update to the Advisory Council

Responsibilities: The Data Synthesis Workgroup (DSW) is responsible for reviewing data resources (both external and internal), reviewing data gathering designs/methodology/instruments/protocols and reports generated from project data gathered (household survey, employer survey, employer/insurance agent/uninsured focus groups, Town Hall meetings, & key informant interviews), responding to data requests from the other workgroups, providing information to assist in the development of recommendations, and appropriate review of draft recommendations. Information provided to the other workgroups and staff also will include a review of the status of the safety net in Michigan, using relevant State, federal, and foundation information resources.

The DSWG is also responsible for generating responses to a series of questions from the granting agency (HRSA) about the Michigan insurance environment; the workgroup will collaborate with consultants to generate the responses required for interim HRSA reports, and will revise those answers for subsequent interim and final reports to HRSA.

Membership: The DSWG has met once/month since July. Membership is about 35 people, with about 25 attending most meetings. Participants have been asked to indicate their preference as to task assignments in terms of knowledge, interests, and capacities; assignments will be made to individuals and special task teams, which will work towards completion of DSW tasks to meet the project timeline.

Current Tasks: The DSW has: reviewed and provided comment on the Employer Focus Group design and questions; reviewed national data sources; reviewed and commented on the preliminary health insurance landscape study (HMA) designed to respond to the HRSA insurance environment questions; and reviewed and responded to the preliminary report from the Household Survey. The DSW has also brainstormed strategies to increase responses to the Employer Survey, and has volunteered direct assistance in some geographic areas. The DSW continues to collect databases from federal, state, and foundation sources to be evaluated for usefulness, credibility, and topic relevance; databases will be listed in a spreadsheet maintained by the DSW and made available to all project participants. The DSW will work with consultants/contractors to identify, gain access to, and appropriately utilize data resources to reach the goals of the project.